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FTA news

FOOD TOBACCO AGRICULTURAL AND ALLIED WORKERS UNION OF AMERICA—CIO

Vol. V. No. 6 April 1, 1945 68 Price 5 Cents

CIO Re-Affirms No-Strike Pledge, Opens Wage Drive

New York, N. Y.—The CIO will take its program for higher wages directly to President Roosevelt and to the people of the United States, according to plans adopted by the CIO Executive Board meeting here March 10-12. Re-affirming the CIO's no-strike pledge without "quibbling or modification," the Executive Board set down wage proposals to the President which include revision of the Little Steel formula and raising of the minimum wage rate to 65c per hour.

Proposals of the Textile and Auto Workers unions to withdraw from the War Labor Board were tabled. "We want to reform the Board and have no intention of withdrawing from it," President Philip Murray stated.

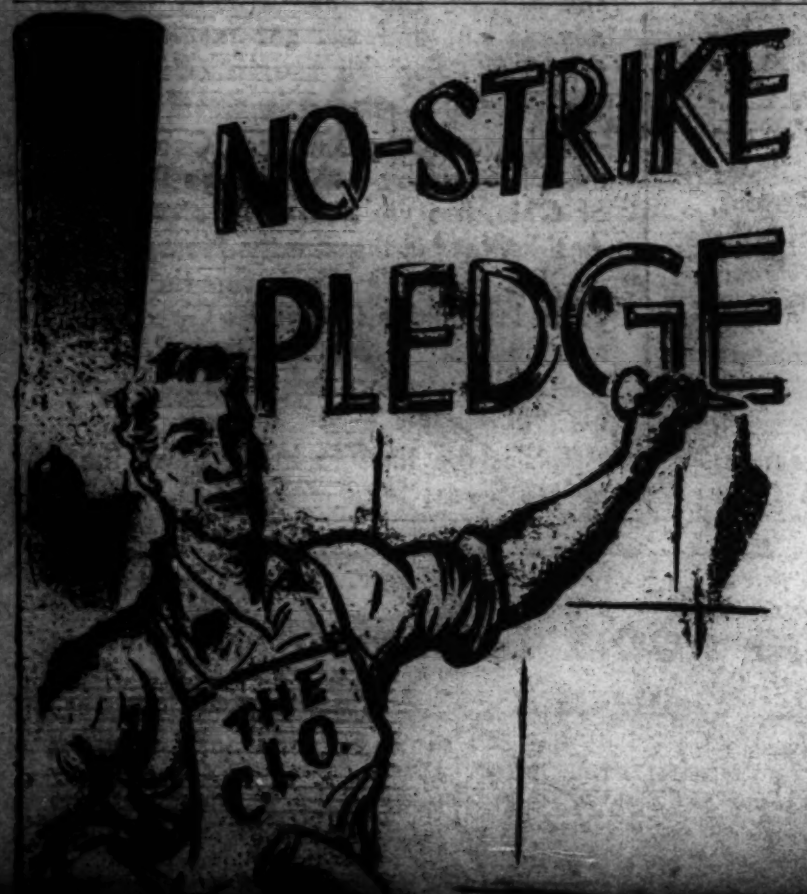
The appeal to Roosevelt for upward revision of wages "sufficient to meet the increased cost of living" will be made personally by a 6-man committee consisting of Murray, Pres. R. J. Thomas of the Auto Workers, Pres. Albert Fitzgerald of the Electrical Workers, Pres. John Green of the Shipbuilding Workers, Pres. Sherman Dalrymple of the Rubber Workers and Pres. Sidney Hillman of the Clothing Workers.

Roosevelt will also be asked to convene a conference of representatives of industry, labor and government to formulate a wage policy "that will meet the needs of our nation."

VISITING COMMITTEES

Urging CIO members to explain the need for a new wage policy in their communities, the Executive Board called for the formation by international and local union of community "Victory Visiting Committees" that will consult industrialists and local government officials on plans for jobs during reconversion and postwar periods.

Stating its aims as "maximum war production and continued full employment, high wages and full production in peace," the Board expressed "its complete dissatisfaction with the glaring failure to accomplish effective and just national economic stabilization, the obstinate and shortsighted policies of the WLB, Judge (Fred) Vinson and Justice (James) Byrnes and their complete desertion of responsibility to provide appropriate wage policies to meet the present and impending needs of the nation."



From UE News

FDR Sets Study Of Annual Wage

Washington, D. C. (FP)—At the request of Pres. Roosevelt, the advisory board of James F. Byrnes' Office of War Mobilization has launched a comprehensive study of the question of establishing a guaranteed annual wage for American workers.

Stating that an annual wage guarantee "is closely connected with problems of reconversion from a war to peacetime economy," the President told his press conference March 20 he had ordered the study in line with recommendations of the Natl. War Labor Board last December.

Public, industry and labor members of the WLB had unanimously recommended that "the whole question of guaranteed wage plans and the possibility of their future development in American industries as an aid in the stabilization of employment and regularization of production should now be comprehensively studied on a national scale."

NEED FOR CHANGE

Former WLB Chairman William Davis had also pointed out that labor's demands for an annual guarantee were reflected in a number of cases pending before the Board that fear of unemployment leading to such demands was increasing pressure for a change in the national wage stabilization policy.

In directing the war mobilization advisory board to study the question, Roosevelt said the plan he had in mind involved the question of a workingman's annual "takehome" pay, which, he said unions had become increasingly interested in lately.

GOVT. WILL HELP

Roosevelt told Byrnes that Secretary of Labor Frances Perkins would "gladly advise the board" in its study that he said the Labor Dept. had already compiled a great amount of information that could be examined right away. He said he considered Byrnes' advisory board "particularly qualified and suited to undertake the recommended study."

The chairman of the advisory board, O. Max Gardner, Washington lawyer and former governor of North Carolina, announced formation of a subcommittee to collect studies already made.

Members of his subcommittee are Pres. Eric Johnston of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, Albert Goss, master of the Natl. Grange, Regional Director Anna Rosenberg of the New York manpower commission and CIO Pres. Philip Murray.

Upon completion of the study the board will report its findings and recommendation to Roosevelt and Byrnes.

Henderson Calls For FEPC Law

Washington, D. C.—Speaking before the Senate education and labor subcommittee on March 13, President Donald Henderson voiced FTA's support for legislation to create a permanent Fair Employment Practices Commission. Other Spokesmen of CIO and AFL unions, as well as religious and civic organizations told the subcommittee of the need for a permanent FEPC and strongly opposed the Taft bill which would establish an FEPC without any enforcement powers.

"The fight to wipe out discrimination in the United States is one of the major concerns of our Union," Henderson declared, "since a high proportion of our members are from minority groups—Spanish-speaking people, Negroes and Filipinos."

"We are adverse to a flesh-and-blood bill like S. 101, which would honestly tackle the problems and concern itself with solving them. I want to make it quite plain that we consider the so-called Taft bill wholly inadequate. I am quite sure that in our industries, especially, general investigations and publicity as are proposed by the Taft measure would be wholly inadequate to solve the problems."

Describing the large numbers of workers of minority groups who have been traditionally employed in agriculture and in the canning, tobacco, fresh fruit and vegetable and fibre processing industries, Henderson pointed out that wages in those industries are among the lowest in the country. "It can fairly be said that discrimination against minority groups has been a major cause of these low

Whereas, during the war, workers from minority groups for the first time have been able to achieve better conditions and wages, Henderson told the subcommittee that an effective and permanent FEPC would be doubly important after the war in order to maintain these standards

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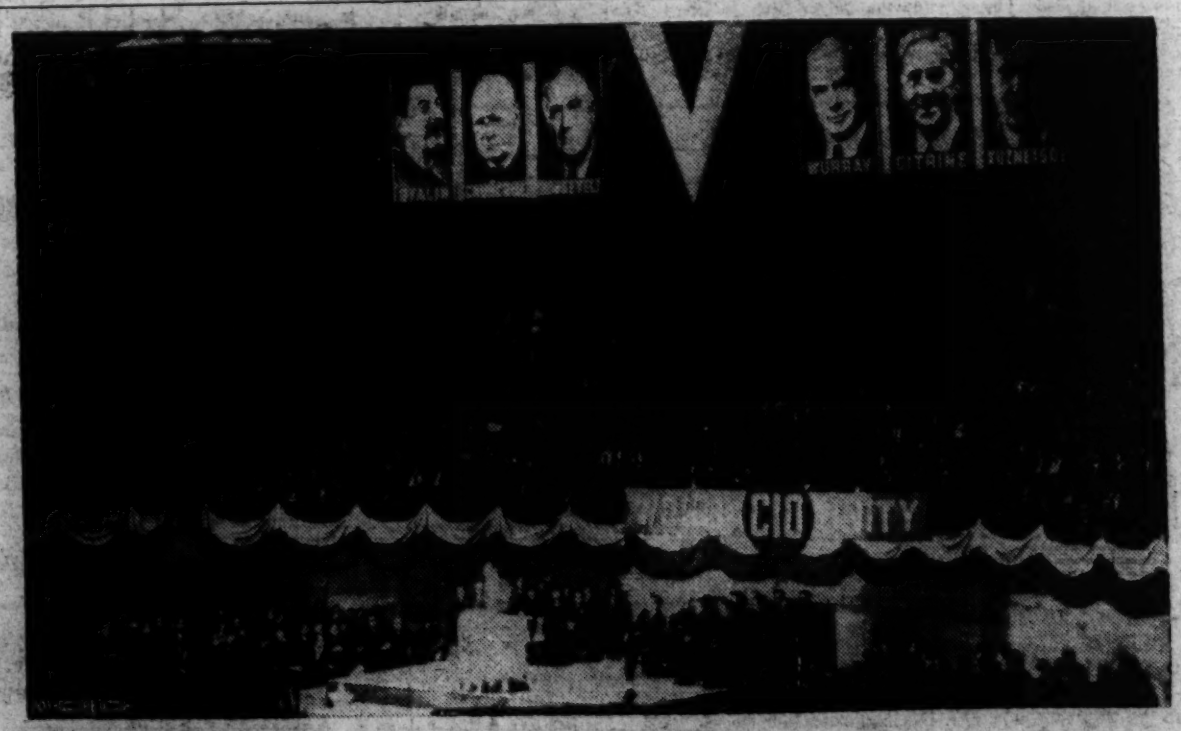
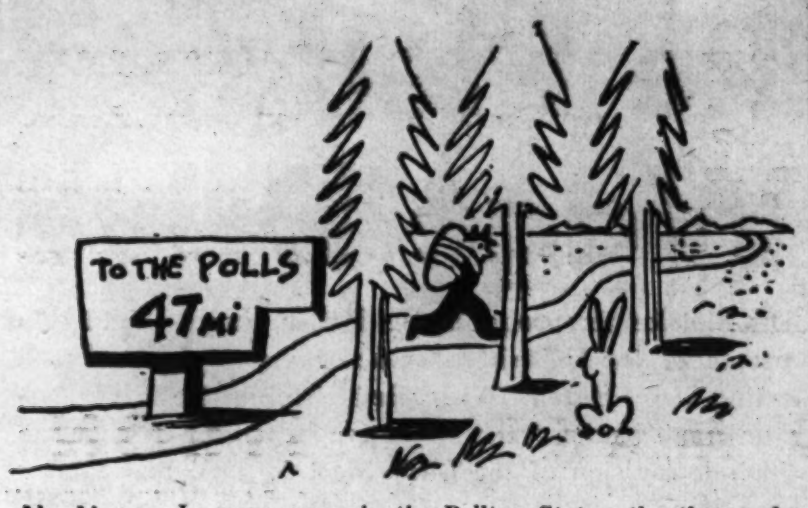
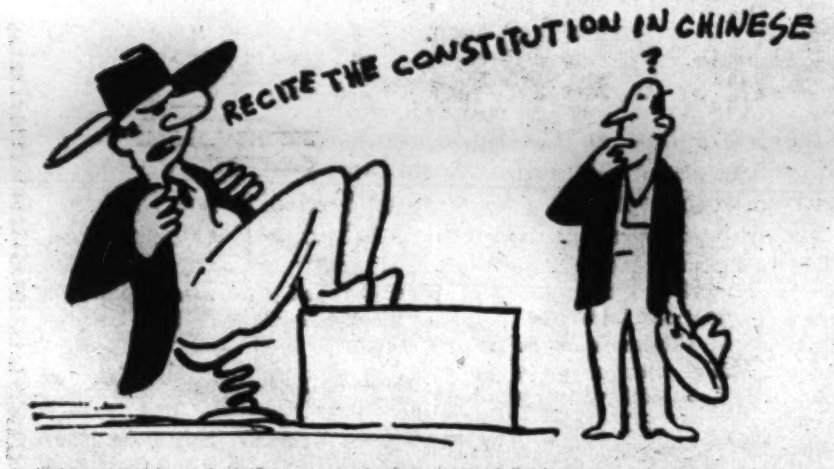


World Unity: National CIO leaders promised a new PAC-type campaign to further American support of world unity among nations and among union movements, when they reported on the World Trade Union Conference before an audience of almost 20,000 in Madison Square Garden, New York City. Above is the speakers' stand under a V-symbol and huge photos of Roosevelt, Churchill, Stalin, CIO Pres. Philip Murray, Secy. Walter Citrine of British Trades Union Congress and Chairman Vassily Kuznetsov of All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, USSR. (See story of rally on page 3, col. 1.)

Wipe Out The Poll Tax—Now!



No Vote: In many cases in the Polltax States, the time and place of registration is a mystery to the majority of people. Too often the periods of registration are too limited and the places to register are inconveniently located, requiring residents to travel long distances to register. Very strict residence requirements keep many war workers and sharecroppers from voting. A two-year residence requirement affects 66% of the Nation's tenants who live in the South. Particularly hard hit are the many war workers who have moved to industrial centers since the war began.



No Vote: Another restriction on the free exercise of every citizen's right to vote is the enormous degree of power in the hands of the Registrar. He enforces limitations on a person's right to vote, such as qualifications with respect to literacy, employment, residence, etc. In many cases he administers literacy tests that are far too difficult. He has the sole power to disqualify many people from voting who fail to meet the often very high standards that are set.

No Vote: The polltax which is levied in 8 Southern States each year keeps many people from voting. In West Virginia where there is no polltax, 4 out of 5 potential voters went to the polls in 1940. In Virginia, a polltax State, only 1 out of 5 potential voters cast ballots in 1940. This restriction hits the workers in the South, both white and Negro, who have to choose between paying for the privilege of voting and buying the necessities of life for their families. Just take a glance at the voting records of the Congressmen from the polltax States. They don't speak for the people because they don't have to answer to a great number of voters at election time.

No Vote: Most elections in Southern States are settled in the Democratic primaries. In seven of the Southern States, Negroes have some limited participation in the primaries of the Democratic Party, but in six States there is a "white primary," which bars from voting about one-third of the population of these six States. One of the ways voting is limited in general elections is the limited number of hours the polls are kept open in some States. In Tennessee, for instance, the polls are open from 9 to 4 only, thus keeping many working people from the polls. Anything that interferes with the free right to vote is anti-democratic and contrary to the objective for which we fight. Particularly in the Southern States is the right to vote hampered by the above-mentioned barriers

LAST year, in one of the most significant elections in our nation's history, 11½ million people could not vote. Between them and the polls stood a high fence labeled POLLTAX. In 8 Southern States, this polltax fence has been standing for years—a barrier against the freedom of the majority of the people of those States and a blight on our democracy.

Behind that fence, small minorities of the people have continuously elected legislators who have no regard for the wishes of the majority.

The polltax is not only the concern of the South. The entire nation has suffered from the activities of those un-representative reactionaries in Congress who hold office only by grace of the polltax. If only to be finally rid of the foul odor of the Rankins, Bilbos and "Pappy" O'Daniels in the halls of Congress, all patriotic Americans should rise up against the polltax.

The polltax is not only the concern of the Negro people. Some 3½ million Negroes cannot vote in the South because of the polltax. But among the white citizens of the South there are 8 million who cannot vote.

Since 1939, anti-polltax bills have roused the support of progressive people and their Congressmen, only to be killed in Congress by underhanded tactics of the polltaxers. The filibuster prevented the passage of the anti-polltax bills every year.

The polltaxers and their friends have claimed that the matter could be left to the States. However, of the 8 States now maintaining polltaxes, only one — Georgia — has eliminated the polltax by action of its State legislature. It is by now certain that all of the other 7 State legislatures will adjourn this year without taking any action, and will not meet again till 1947. For this reason action by the Federal Congress is essential.

A bi-partisan coalition of Congressmen, headed by Rep. George Bender of Ohio, has undertaken to steer the Anti-Polltax bill through the House during this session. This is the time for every local union to wire its Congressmen and for all members to write letters urging support to the Anti-Polltax bill (HR 7).

This is the time to break down the polltax fence!

FROM WASHINGTON

Facing the Food Situation

By ELIZABETH SASULY, Legislative Director

OVER two years ago our Union made a thorough analysis of the food situation, and initiated proposals in support of the President's program to insure that food production and planning of distribution would be adequate to meet all war needs.

Because many of these sound proposals were not carried out, and in spite of the whole-hearted participation and long hours of work by food processing workers, farmers and agricultural workers, we are today faced with a crisis in the food situation.

This does not mean that anyone in this country is going to starve. does mean that the United States, which is the greatest current producer of food supplies in the world, faces serious problems in doing its share to plan for the needs of our Army, of the liberated countries and for our own needs at home.

First, no honest person can post[illegible] Army's need for increased food allotments. The Army's food supply is "below the minimum safety factor" necessary to assure combat areas against emergencies, Under-Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson told a press conference. During the next three months the Army needs 17 percent of the food supply of the country, as compared to 14 percent in the first quarter of 1945 and about 13 percent before that.

Second, we support the President's statement that no decent American will object to seriously reducing home consumption to help those who are actually starving. To do so would be to deny our whole policy of international [illegible] the isolationists in Congress hope to do. Our country has not suffered directly from the war in the way that European countries have. For example, during 1944 we had an average of 148 lbs. of meat per person, which is 22 lbs. more per person than we had in the immediate prewar years.

Planned Production

Third, we must tackle the problem from the food production standpoint on something more than a day-to-day basis. This means, as FTA's original program pointed out, maximum production, but more than that, it means planned production of the things we need most. The War Food Administration is guilty of many mistakes on this score. For example, just last fall a wave of over-optimism and unrealistic worry about surpluses, resulted in a delay of two months in formulating plans for spring plantings.

Needless to say, FTA's first responsibility is to continue its all-out program of maximum production on the farms and in food processing plants. In many instances labor shortages have tended to cut down production. Wage increases are necessary to secure a more adequate labor supply. These are truly increases for more effective prosecution of the war.

We must also understand our obligation to share our food with those who need it, and we must fight for the kind of over-all food production program which will avoid a repetition of the present crisis—including intensified production and processing of edible oils, fruits, vegetables and grains, all of which are processed by FTA plants.

Finally, in addition to our food processing work on the job, we can do our share of Victory gardening and home canning to stretch the civilian supply.

Tell It To Congress

CONGRESS is discussing the possibility of a two-week recess beginning March 28. If it goes through, it means your Representative and Senators will probably be home for a week or ten days. That's your chance to meet with them and arrange delegations to see them to discuss important legislative issues.

Bretton Woods (H.R. 2211 and S. 540)

Provide 5 million jobs in foreign trade, and a basis for world economic stability. The Senate Currency & Banking Committee is now holding hearings.

ACTION: Support quick passage of these bills without amendment!

Price Control (S.J. Res. 30)

Extends OPA. Senate now holding hearings. Republicans and others want to lift cont ols, which would disrupt our war economy.

ACTION: Support OPA extension, fight against any crippling amendments.

Permanent FEPC (S. 101 and H.R. 2232)

Bi-partisan bills establishing a permanent Commission with enforcement powers. Senate subcommittee hearings were just held. Discharge Petition may be necessary in the House. Senate Committee also has Taft Bill for an investigating body with no power to act.

ACTION: Your Representative should sign Discharge Petition if and when it comes out. Your Senators should reject Taft Bill, and support S. 101.

Substandard Wages (H.R. 1172 and S. Con. Res. 11)

To establish a WLB substandard minimum of 65c.

ACTION: Support!

* * *

FLASH: A Discharge Petition has just been initiated on H.R. 1698, the anti-lynching bill. Your Representative should sign this petition quickly to get the bill out of Committee.

YOUR UNION

JUST OUT!

The "FTA Guide for Officers, Stewards and Committee Members" is the sparkling new pamphlet which tells you how to build bigger and better local unions. You can get your copy now! . . .

HOW TO MAKE IT STRONG

"MANY workers think that when the contract is signed, their (organizing) job is finished. This is a very serious mistake because the second and most important phase of your Union's life is just beginning—and this is what is commonly referred to as 'unionizing.'" (From foreword by Pres. Donald Henderson and Secy.-Treas. Harold J. Lane in a new FTA pamphlet.)

How to make your Union strong—"unionizing"—is the big question that is answered in the new, attractive FTA Guide for Officers, Stewards and Committee Members, just published by the International's Research Department. Something which every local union leader needs and wants, this pamphlet contains a powerhouse of information and is written in simple, concise language.

Whether your local is young or old, you will find the policy for building local unions, as outlined in the FTA Guide, of great help in day to day activities.

The duties and responsibilities of local committees, such as the Executive Board, Shop Stewards' Council, Negotiating, Political Action, Organizing, Publicity and other committees, are given.

The work of the Shop Stewards is given special attention, with many tips on how to do a Steward's job effectively. "Upon the shoulders of the Shop Stewards depend the success or failure of the local union," the pamphlet says, and it tells how to handle grievances and how to carry out the program and policies of the union.

The last section of the pamphlet deals with model local union by-laws, which can be easily adapted to fit the needs of any local.

The FTA Guide for Officers, Stewards and Committee Members is 32 pages, with color illustrations (see pictures on this page), 10c each. The pamphlet can be ordered through local unions directly from the International office.

Shed Workers Win O.K. On Preferential Hiring

Los Angeles, Calif.—Local 78 made history in March when the National WLB approved preferential hiring and dues checkoff for lettuce shed workers in the areas around Salinas, Calif., and Phoenix, Ariz. This was the first national WLB order granting these two Union gains in an industry where they had never existed before. Thirty-five hundred workers are covered by the new WLB ruling.

This new ruling will help prevent manpower waste, which is prevalent in the industry, and will give the Union strength to enforce its no-strike

By approving preferential hiring and dues checkoff, which was previously ordered by the Regional WLB last December, the National WLB denied an appeal by the lettuce shed employers to withdraw the order.

The National Board also okayed a seniority clause for the Phoenix area. The employers' group there, the Central Arizona Growers-Shippers Assn., had rejected seniority. In Salinas the Grower-Shipper Vegetable Assn. of Central California had agreed to the provision for seniority and put it into effect.

At the time FTA News went to press, the National Board's action on wage adjustments ordered by the Regional WLB was not yet known.

PROTECTS WORKERS

Union arguments for preference of employment stressed the anti-union attitude of agricultural employers in the two areas and the unworkability of the standard maintenance of membership clause in the lettuce industry.

Former WLB member Arnold Campo, now in the Army, concurred with the Regional WLB order by letter. "The UCAPAWA (now FTA) paid for its growth with jail sentences imposed by employer-controlled courts," Campo said.

CIO Attorney, Aubrey Grossman assisted Int. Vice-Pres. Dixie Tiller in the presentation of the Union's case.

Labor's Peace Role Hailed At World Unity Rally

New York, N. Y. (FP)—A new world labor organization—"the strong arm of the peoples of the world"—will be a bulwark of the firm, unshakeable peace mapped by the Big Three at Yalta, leaders of the CIO and the United Nations declared at a huge labor rally in Madison Sq. Garden on March 12.

The colorful testament to the world unity forged at the London World Trade Union Conference and the Crimea conference was sponsored by the CIO in a meeting unprecedented in the history of that organization. Nearly 20,000 unionists filled the hall to hear reports from the CIO delegates to the London conference, speeches by CIO Pres. Philip Murray, Soviet Ambassador Andrei Gromyko, Sen. Claude Pepper (D, Fla.), Rep. Helen Gahagan Douglas (D, Calif.) and Secy. of State Edward R. Stettinius and Lord Halifax, the British ambassador.

Most dramatic point of the evening came when Murray appealed to the AFL "to come into the international house of labor . . . and participate with other international labor organizations in the perfection of a peaceful and democratic world."

REPORT ON CONFERENCE

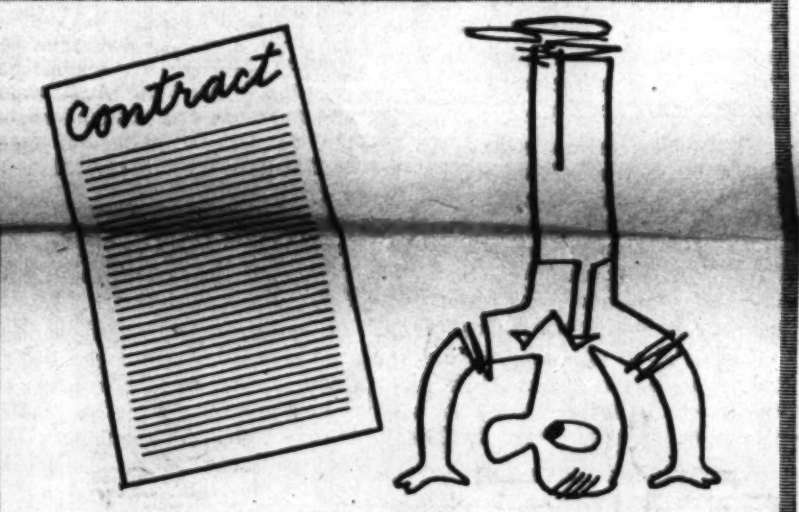
Murray's call to the AFL to change its hostile attitude to the London conference and the new world labor organization it ordered set up followed reports on the conference itself by Pres. R. J. Thomas of United Auto Workers, Chairman Sidney Hillman of the CIO Political Action Committee and Pres. Joseph Curran of Natl. Maritime Union, who acted as chairman of the rally. Other members of the CIO delegation were introduced briefly to the audience.

The two historic conferences at London and Yalta "complement each other in a very real sense," Hillman said. The laudable objectives of a secure and lasting peace worked out at Yalta "can be achieved only through complete unity of purpose and of action among the free nations of the world," he said. "That unity, to be enduring, must find its basis in close friendship, collaboration and understanding, not alone among governments, but likewise among their people."

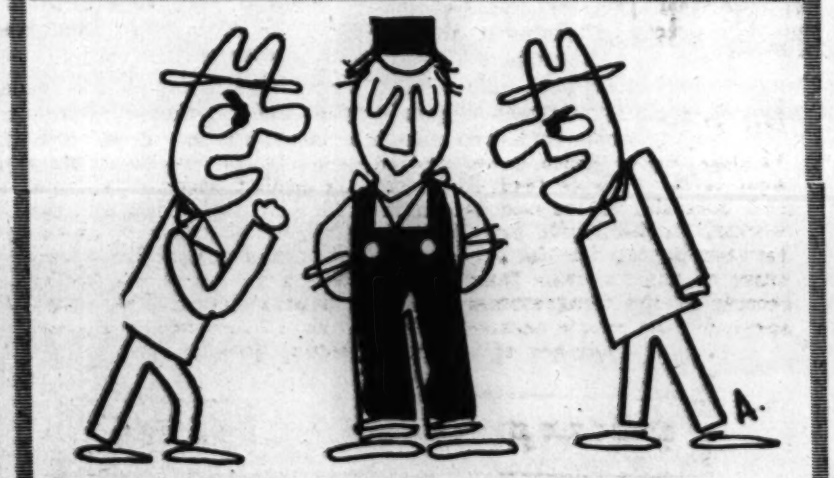
WIDE AGREEMENT

Such unity was assured at London where delegates "from the great powers, from the small nations, from the colonial and dependent lands . . . of every race, creed and color, and of widely varying political affiliations" agreed on the objectives of world labor and the formation of an international labor organization to "speak and act with authority on behalf of the great mass of the workers of the world," Hillman said.

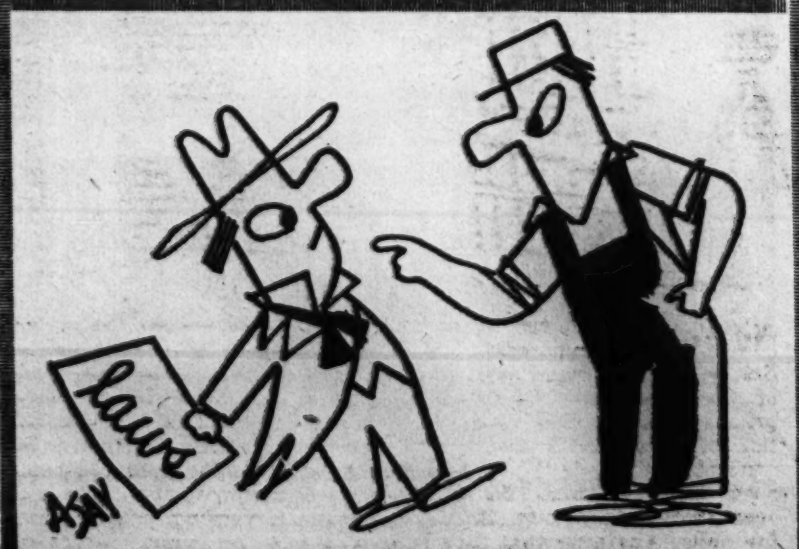
Building a union requires three special ingredients.



Know it backwards, forwards, and up-side-down.



Don't lose your temper.



Let your Congressman know how you feel.

Urge Support For Bretton Woods Plan

Lindsay, Calif. — A resolution urging support to the Bretton Woods agreement was sent by the Citrus Workers Organizing Committee here to Congress. "The President's program for 60 million jobs after this war depends on world trade and raising the standards of millions of workers all over the world," the resolution said.

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WLB Orders Pay Increases For Swift Workers

By Georgia Morris, Financial Secretary, Local 98

Little Rock, Ark.—Retroactive pay totaling approximately 10 thousand dollars, a 5c per hour increase, maintenance of membership, and automatic check-off of Union dues were among the benefits won by Local 98 for the employees of Swift & Company Cotton Oil Mill in a recent directive order by the Regional WLB.

The wage increase will give nearly all employees a flat 5c an hour increase, with time-and-a-half after 48 hours in any work week or after 9 hours in any work day.

Both the Union and Company have tentatively agreed on accepting the main provisions of the Board order, but unless complete agreement is reached on disputed points, both sides will probably file appeals.

Members of the Negotiating Committee are: James Shepherd, Rufus Wood, I. Humble and Lee Butler. They were assisted by Fin. Secy. Georgia Morris, Sub-regional Director Harry Koger, and CIO Regional Director William R. Henderson.

BUCKEYE NEGOTIATES

Negotiations for renewing the contract between the Buckeye Cotton Oil Mill and Local 98 started on March 14. Among the changes and additions proposed by the Union are: plant-wide seniority, increased vacations, standard procedure, 10c per hour wage increase, and a written agreement covering the company's policy of paying double time on the seventh day of work.

Members of the Negotiating Committee are Roy Williams and Nathaniel Eden, with Georgia Morris assisting.

Wage adjustments were negotiated for four employees at the Federal Compress plant here by the Shop Stewards Committee. Before the adjustment was made, the employees were classified as helpers in the press room, and were paid under the scale.

Members of the Shop Committee who did the fine job are: Henry Aubrey, Chief Steward; and Sam Perry, Pressroom Steward.

Final arrangements are under way at Federal Compress to start the check-off of dues recently granted by the Regional WLB to Local 98 members.

FLASH
$20,000 Back Pay Wins WLB Okay

Lockport, Ill.—Some $20,000 in back pay was awarded the employees of the Northern Illinois Cereal Company as a result of WLB approval of a Form 10 filed by Local 11 and the Company. Retroactive to July 5, 1944, the pay increase provided for a general increase of 2½c an hour for all workers and 5c for certain classifications which were out of line with the general wages paid, according to FTA Regional Director Paul Gardner.

Raises Won By Local 89

By Jack D. Dent, Reporter

Jonesboro, Ark. — Back pay checks totaling $2,000 and retroactive to July 1, 1944, were paid to the employees of the Pierce-Williams Company on January 26. Semi-skilled workers received wage increases of 2½ an hour, and skilled workers got 5c an hour. The increase affected workers in 20 job classifications.

Many new members have joined Local 89 as a result of seeing the gains that can be won through FTA. The back pay award was authorized by the WLB in November, 1944. Before the wage increases, machine operators received the same pay as helpers.

Local 89 is planning a workers rally for March 20, at which time we expect to bring the workers of two more industries into the Local.

The 1945 biennial session of the Arkansas Legislature closed after failing, during its 60-day session, to put through an act which would enforce the State's anti-closed shop amendment. The amendment which was passed in November, 1944, was an anti-labor act, failure to pass the enabling act was a gain for labor, because it leaves the anti-closed shop amendment without teeth.

Quick Action On Grievances

By Rebecca Stanfield, Reporter

Charleston, S. C.—Quick action, resulting from a properly conducted grievance case, showed Local 15 members once again how a person with the correct trade union approach can win the rights due a worker.

Recently, Susan Blake, Local 15 member employed at the American Tobacco Co., requested time off to take her sick baby to the doctor. When the foreman refused, she had to leave since she had no one to take care of her baby.

The next morning she was given her dismissal slip. But, instead of leaving the shop, Mrs. Blake called in the the Shop Steward and submitted her case to him. He carried the case as far as the local manager of the plant who refused to listen. Finally, the grievance reached the national office of the Company where the Company lawyers instructed the local plant management to reinstate Mrs. Blake with pay for time lost.

GIRLS KEEP CUSHIONS

Another grievance arose on March 12, when the women employees at the American Tobacco plant were ordered to turn in all seat cushions. The girls who have to sit on hard stools for ten straight working hours a day were naturally outraged.

They quickly called in Local 15 President Reuel Stanfield, who was told that the cushions were being removed because the feathers were getting into the cigars. He informed the foreman that if the cushions were not promptly returned, a delegation of CIO merchant seamen would surround the plant to show their sympathy for the girls, who refused to break their No-Strike pledge in spite of any provocation on the part of management.

Within an hour the cushions were returned, and the pillows that contained feathers were replaced by others.

ENLARGE EXEC. BOARD

At its last meeting, the Executive Board of Local 15 went on record recommending the addition of white members to a joint grievance committee of both white and colored workers.

Isiah Bennett, one of the best shop stewards of Local 15, is now in the Navy. In his farewell talk to the membership, Brother Bennett said that he hoped that they would continue working to make conditions even better so that he and others could come back to union shops.

PACatWork In Local 15

Charleston, S. C. — Local 15's campaign through CIO-PAC to abolish the Polltax in South Carolina made headway last month when the State Senate voted to repeal the tax on March 5. The proposed repeal is yet to be voted on by the State House of Representatives, according to Rebecca Stanfield, Local 15 Reporter.

In a wire to President Roosevelt, the officers and members of Local 15 said: "We unanimously endorse the decisions made at the Yalta Conference and pledge you our support to see that your program is fulfilled. We wish you the best of health."

Another wire to the President urged him to take over the coal mines in the event that "John L. Lewis calls a strike, which would impede the war effort."

Local 23 Chartered

Orlando, Fla.—Local 23 received an FTA charter on February 23. Temporary officers are William R. Fischer, Acting Pres.; and Dorothy O. Ellis, Acting Secy.

To Win Buckeye: Members of the Organizing Committee at the Charlotte, N.C., plant of the Buckeye Cotton Oil Company are shown discussing organizational problems with International Representative William DeBerry. (Reading l. to r.) Paul Alexander, Chaplain; W. N. Rosebud, Chairman; DeBerry; Manuel Nelson, Vice-Chairman; James Withers, Secy.; and Louis Kennedy. The drive to organize the Buckeye Plant was launched by the FTA Tri-State Regional Council on October 16. This plant is another one in Proctor and Gamble's large chain of oil mills which stretches over four or five States throughout the South.

FTA Wins Election At General Cigar

New Brunswick, N. J.—Bargaining rights for the employees of the General Cigar Company were won by Local 105 in an NLRB election held here on March 8. Some 107 workers at the plant spoke out firmly for FTA while 33 voted for no union.

Representing the Union at the polls were Shop Stewards Helen Domites and Barbara Keenan.

Local 105 members who work a Klein Cigar Company played a big part in bringing the message of FTA to the General Cigar workers. Particularly active in the organizing campaign were Mary Godrey, President of Local 105, and Mary Chrinko, Secretary. They were assisted by FTA Regional Director, Armando Ramirez.

Not content to sit by and see their fellow workers win union conditions without being in on it, the workers at another General Cigar plant in Perth Amboy, N. J., have petitioned for an election. They already have 70% of the employees signed up with FTA.

National Produce Workers Pick FTA

By Joseph Hellinger, Bus. Agt.

Memphis, Tenn.—The workers of the National Produce Company voted overwhelmingly by 48 to 7 to join hands with their fellow workers of Memphis in the ranks of Local 19, through an NLRB election.

All the efforts of a reactionary Company to discourage the unionization of the workers failed. They even went so far as to increase wages from 40c to 50c an hour, but the workers realized that it was important to join FTA to protect their wage increase and to work for future gains.

Contract negotiations are now in progress. Members of the Negotiating Committee are Mattie Lee, Sadie Austin, Alberta Johnson and Business Agent Joseph Hellinger.

The leading organizers of the plant were Mattie Lee and Alberta Johnson. Local 19's organizer, Jessie Harrison, conducted the organizing campaign.

New Contract For Pillsbury Workers

Memphis, Tenn. — A general wage increase of 10c an hour was negotiated in a new contract signed by Local 19 with the Pillsbury Flour Company, according to Business Agent Joseph Hellinger. Five cents of the increase has already been granted and the second five cents will be retroactive to December 11, 1944, pending WLB approval.

Also included in the contract was six holidays with overtime pay if worked, 1 week's vacation for 1 year's employment, 2 weeks' vacation for five or more years of employment, and a maintenance of membership clause.

Members of the Negotiating Committee are Tom Roach, Leslie Mathews, and Business Agent Joseph Hellinger.

Correction Please

Frank Green Chairman of Local 22, informs us that he was misquoted in an article by Theodosia Simpson appearing in the March 1 issue of FTA NEWS on page 1. According to Brother Green, Judge Moore did not make the statement credited to him.

The election campaign won at the Libbey Fruit Company was conducted by Local 78 in Phoenix, Arizona, and not by the Citrus Workers Organizing Committee in Lindsay, California as was announced in the March 1 issue of the News on page 6.

Food For Everybody: A Job For Tomorrow

ON Saturday, March 10, at 3:45 P.M., over the Columbia Broadcasting System, the CIO devoted its regular weekly program "Job for Tomorrow" to the contributions of FTA, the United Packinghouse Workers, and the United Farm Equipment and Metal Workers in producing "Food for Everybody." "Job for Tomorrow" is a series of programs sponsored by CBS describing the present and the future of America's great industries through the eyes of millions of union men and women.

The following is condensed from the March 10 program describing FTA's share in producing food for Victory:

VOICE: This is about food! This is about the least common denominator of all humanity . . . food!

SOUND: Distant battle noise . . . Tank rumbling slowly . . .

VOICE: Italy . . . a pile of rubble somewhere between Florence and Bologna. A Sherman Tank rumbles to a stop . . .

SOUND: Tank stops . . .

SMEDLEY: Look's O.K. Come on . . . pile out!

SOUND: Metal door bangs open, men jump out . . .

SMEDLEY: (calls) Wally . . . better check that ignition system again. There's a short somewhere.

WALLY: (deep in tank) O.K. sir . . .

SMEDLEY: I guess this was once a house. What a mess! Well, we might as well take a breather. Break out the rations.

SPUNKY: An' you ain't kidding sir. Break out is right. Every time I look at one of these K ration cans I break out. In spots. When this war is over an' I get home . . . if once't . . . just once't . . . my wife tries to hand me a can, I . . .

SOUND: Low wail of a baby far off . . .

WOMAN: (Calling in Italian) Help . . . help . . . please . . .

SMEDLEY: Hey, listen . . .

SOUND: Baby crying again.

SMEDLEY: Somebody's buried in this rubble . . .

SPUNKY: A baby . . .

SMEDLEY: Come on!

SPUNKY: Under this old rafter . . .

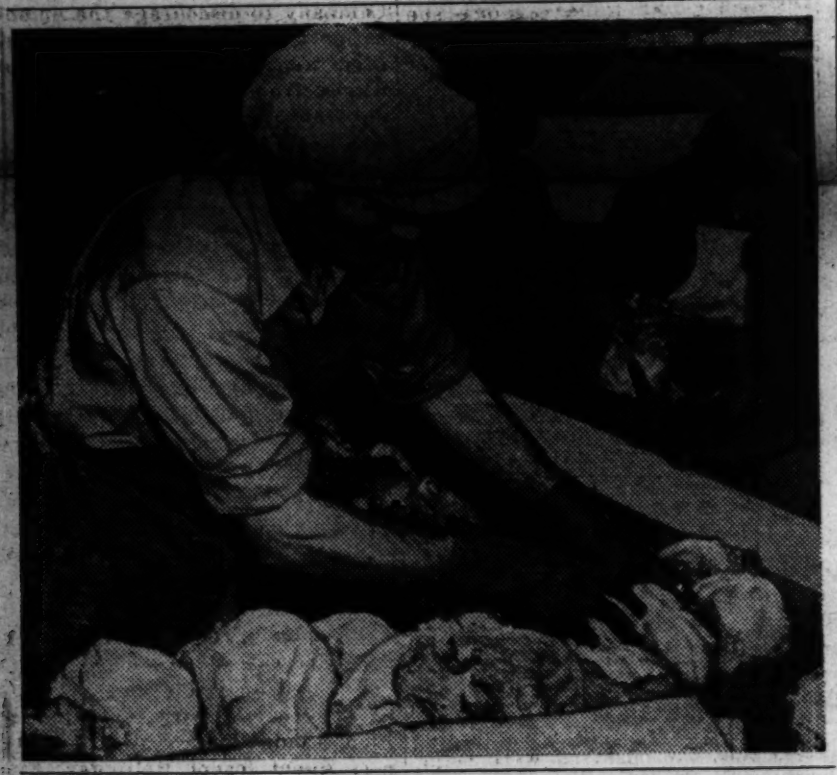
SMEDLEY: Can you lift it?

SPUNKEY: Yeah . . . I'll try . . . (grunts).

SOUND: Crunch of heavy rafter being pulled up . . . Wail of baby is clearer.

SMEDLEY: (Calls) All right, lady . . . you're O.K., now . . . amigo . . . amigo . . . friends! Hand up the bambino.

WOMAN: (crying) Bambino . . . mia bambino.



SOUND: Wail of baby is loud and full.

SMEDLEY: Give me your hand . . . can you make it? O.K. . . . there! (grunts).

SOUND: Woman scrambles up . . . thud of rafter going down.

SPUNKY: Whew . . .

WOMAN: (In torrent of Italian) God Bless You . . . My Baby . . . the two of us buried . . . Holy Mother of Jesus . . .

SMEDLEY: Yeah . . . sure. O.K.

SPUNKY: They must have been under there for a couple of days . . .

SMEDLEY: Get that ration can open . . . they looked starved.

SPUNKY: Sure thing.

SMEDLEY: (In bastard Italian) Hungry? Uh . . . uh . . . spaghetti, raviolli . . . uh . . . you . . . mangee . . . eat . . .

WOMAN: (In Italian) Please . . . food . . . anything.

SPUNKY: Here you are lady . . . some cheese, eh? Touch the spot, I betcha . . . Just lemme bayonet the can . . .

SOUND: Metal opening can.

SPUNKY: There we are. Go on . . . take it! Cheese . . . Chees-a. Verrry good, eh? And here's some chocolate for the baby. Come on . . . here you are, bambino . . . candy, candy . . .

WOMAN: (With mouth full, in Italian) God bless you . . . God bless you . . .

* * *

SALVATORE: I'm Salvatore de-Rosa . . . maybe that poor old Italian lady was a distant cousin of mine. Could be. When my Pop came over from the Old Country he left a flock of relatives behind. And it could be that I helped pack that K ration the soldiers fed to her and her baby. You see, I'm a member of Local 207 of FTA-CIO . . . that's the Food, Tobacco, Agricultural and Allied Workers Union of America . . . CIO. Our local here in Brooklyn is plenty proud of the fact that we're 100% in war work . . . packaging K Rations. And it's real fighting food, see. It's when the going gets tough . . . when the kitchens can't get up to the front, when maybe the unit is in a tough spot and surrounded . . . that's when our stuff really counts. That's our stuff . . . K Rations! Who are we? What kind of men and women are we? Well, all kinds . . . different kinds . . . Lemme tell you a little about one of our locals . . . Number 78 . . . maybe you've heard of them as the 'fruit tramps'. Well, they ain't tramps at all . . . they're fruit and vegetable packers who travel from one end of the West Coast to the other following the harvest. It was plenty tough, getting that union recognized. Maybe you read about some of the fireworks in the Imperial Valley and around there. Lot of it was plain horsefeathers, but there was plenty of trouble, sure enough. Notice how you ain't heard any of that since the war started? They're too busy packin' food to look for publicity. And if you don't think they're doing a job packing the food we need here at home, and our boys need on the fronts . . . well, the Governor of Arizona . . . you know what he said?

OSBORNE: It gives me great pleasure to testify to the growing stability in agriculture throughout the State of Arizona. A great deal of credit toward these increasingly stable relations must go to the officials and members of your Union!

SALVATORE: He was talking about the members of the FTA-CIO . . . and there's some 77,000 of us scattered over a lot of this country. Our job is good, see . . . maybe it's peaches and walnuts and melons in the Southwest . . . or salmon and tuna . . . or making cigarettes in North Carolina . . . or C Rations in Iowa . . . Look . . . all over the world babies with big bellies are nothin' but bones for arms and legs and bawlin' because they're hungry. All over the world they're diggin' in ash-cans for bread-crumbs and boilin' grass for soup. They're hungry. Not here, though. Here we're O.K. and we're doin' a job. With less farmers, less workers, we're turning out more food than there was ever turned out before. Food for us at home . . . for our fighters . . . for the people in the lands where kids of six have never known what a square meal means. We're learning lessons all the time. We're learning that labor alone can't make a better world . . . nor the farmers alone . . . nor the business people alone. It's all of us together that'll have to do the job. It's just too bad that it took a lot to teach us what we should have known . . . but now we know it. Food is for everybody, see. It's for the lady on Park Avenue, the guy in Pittsburgh . . . the kid in Athens, Greece. And they call us the bread basket of the world. That's great. We men and women in America want to keep the basket so full . . . it always overflows. Yeah, that's a good idea. That's our job for tomorrow . . . are you with us?

Local 349 Makes Plans For The Year Ahead

By Zella Whitfield, Reporter

Harviell, Mo. — Local 349 members rolled up their sleeves and went to work at their last membership meeting where they planned the Local's activities for the coming year. Everyone was very glad that dues were raised because the new $1.50 dues gives more money to the Local treasury with which to carry on the activities planned.

International Vice-Pres. Owen Whitfield is going to hold classes in political education which groups from six communities will attend. We hope that this will be the groundwork for solid political activity in the rural areas of Missouri. Already Local 349 has become the hub of activity for Butler County. PAC played a big part in winning the election and adopting a new Constitution for the State of Missouri.

Brother and Sister Whitfield will represent the Local at the Mississippi Delta Regional Council when it meets in Memphis, Tenn., the second Sunday in April.

Newly elected officers of Local 349 are: Hosie Johnson, Pres.; Mrs. B. L. Morgan, Vice-Pres.; Zella Whitfield, Secy.-Treas.; Mrs. Viola Tripp, Rec. Secy.; and Aaron Crowley, Treasurer.

Membership Grows In Local 232

By Clarence Thomas, Reporter

Helena, Ark.—Since 1940, the workers at the Helena Cotton Mill, members of Local 232, have been struggling to better their working conditions. At last, we are beginning to see success coming our way. Another plant is being built near by, and we are already mapping out a drive to bring the workers into FTA.

Until now, Local 232 had an all Negro membership, but, in March, one of the white Engineers at the plant joined the Local, and with him he brought seven other new embers. Together we are going to do a real CIO job.

Eager Beaver

Filipino Unionists Form War Workers Group

Los Angeles, Calif. (FP)—While their brothers at home fight the Japanese, Filipino unionists who help make American ships and airplanes in Los Angeles and its harbor area banded together into an organization called the Filipino War Workers.

One thousand Filipinos from shipyards, plane factories, machine shops and canneries, members of Food Tobacco & Agricultural Workers (CIO), United Auto Workers (CIO), Intl. Assn. of Machinists (AFL), and Intl. Bro. of Boilermakers (AFL), have organized to help their fellow Americans and Filipinos.

Setting as its first task all-out aid for the Filipino war relief drive, the FWW has this program:

To prevent discrimination against all groups because of their color, race or creed.

To cooperate with those organizations pledged to guarantee civil rights for all racial and minority groups.

To encourage and facilitate the naturalization of all Filipinos in the U. S.

Local 2 Sets Up Work Committees

Fullerton, Calif. — Coming back from the successful FTA Regional Conference in Los Angeles, Local 2 delegates immediately went to work to put the Conference decisions into effect, according to Business Agent Pat Verble.

Four committees were set up in the Local — Organizing, Education and Publicity, Entertainment and Welfare and Political Action—and each Executive Board member volunteered on a committee and pledged to activize other members.

The ambition of Local 2 is to have every member active either as a shop steward or on a committee.

Notes from LOCALS

Win Wage Increase

58 Archbold, Ohio—At the request of Local 58, a wage increase was approved by the WLB for employees of the La Choy Food Products Company who are employed as Supervisors of Female Labor, Sorters and Inspectors. The new rates of 75c per hour were made effective as of February 1, 1945.

Another request by the Union for time and one-half over 40 hours a week for Supervisors of Production was also approved by the Regional WLB, effective as of January 25, 1945.

New Rates Considered

84 Indianapolis, Ind. — War Labor Board Panel hearings are continuing on the disputes between Local 84 and the Acme-Evans Milling Company.

At a hearing held on March 8, FTA Regional Director Robert Clark presented facts showing that, although the Acme-Evans Company increased wages in 1941 higher than the Little Steel Formula set, other comparable industries paid much higher wages than the Acme-Evans Company paid.

On the basis of these facts, the Chairman of the Panel will recommend wage rate and range studies to the WLB to establish new rates for the industry. Meanwhile, he also agreed to recommend that the WLB issue an interim directive order on the 7 other disputed issues still remaining to be settled between the Company and Local 84.

Company Shells Out

91 New Orleans, La.—Local 91 has finally succeeded in getting the retroactive pay due seventeen members. Although the Trelles Cigar Company claimed that they didn't owe these people back pay, the WLB ordered them to shell out. A committee of Company and Union representatives audited the books and paid seventeen people amounts ranging from $95.58 to $6.35.

By Katie Scott, Reporter

Member Mourned

110 Cedar Rapids, Iowa — We extend to the family of Anne Kubec our most sincere sympathy on her sudden death. Sister Kubec was a good and jolly worker. At almost the end of a 12-hour day, she collapsed, and died a few hours later.

We are always glad to hear from our boys in the armed forces. Some very interesting letters were received from Fred Joss who is somewhere in the Pacific, and from International Representative-on-leave Jack Fox who is with the Air Forces in England.

Local 110 members now have dues checkoff. This is a great help to those members who were responsible for collecting dues in the past.

At our regular membership meeting, we passed a resolution urging workers to keep on their jobs after V-E Day. The Axis partners are at work spreading the rumor that we should ease up, that the war is over. "When the day of final defeat comes for either of the two enemies, let us not encourage them by declaring a gala holiday for our war production workers. Let us keep our war production at a maximum until the final shot is fired."

By Agnes F. Dvorak, Reporter

New Officers

179 Toledo, Ohio — The newly elected officers of Local 179 for the year are: Elmer Ringer, Pres.; Vincent Flory, Vice-Pres.; Eldred Marchal, Fin. Secy.; Charles Schrieber, Rec. Secy.; John Bloom, and Vincent Flory, Grievance Committee; Anthony Helmick, John Bloom, and Eldred Marchal, Safety Committee; William Hawkins, William James, and Charles Schrieber, Sick Committee; William James, Guard; and Clyde DeGood, Trustee.

A citation was awarded Local 179 by the War Finance Dept. for good work during the 6th War Loan Drive. With this feather in their caps, Local 179 members are going all out for the Red Cross Drive.

A request for a 4 cent wage increase retroactive to June 1, 1944 has been presented to the War Labor Board on a Form 10.

By Clyde DeGood, Reporter

"HEY FELLAS! — V-MAILMAN'S HERE!"

HEAR YE!

All members and officers of FTA are invited to contribute to this column of opinion on various topics of current labor and national interest. Drop us a line and tell us what you're thinking.

Harry Koger, Sub-Regional Director of the Mississippi Delta Regional Council, in a column called "War-Time Living" in the Arkansas Labor Journal, says:

Remember how butter went up from 35c to 78c during World War I? And eggs from 30c to 92c; and sugar from 5c to 26c?

And then came the crash! What goes up must come down! We all know what happened to us, the people, during those dark days.

OPA's enforcement job has not been perfect, but it has saved millions of dollars for us consumers. Remind your friends of these things when they grumble about the inconvenience of rationing and price control.

Volunteer price panel assistants are needed in nearly every locality. Spending a few hours each week checking ceiling prices will be doing a lot toward making this a better place for your boy to come back to.

Drop in at your local OPA office and tell them that you would like to serve as a price panel assistant.

On February 24, Local 22 presented a play called "Unfinished Business" on its regular weekly radio program. Here's the drift of it:

NARRATOR: Yes, Citizen CIO is helping produce the goods of war. There is still more to be done, Citizen CIO, are you ready?

WORKER: We are ready, but what more is there to do?

(Scene shifts and we find a Red Cross worker offering assistance to a woman who has not been getting her dependency allotment since she moved without reporting her change of address.)

RED CROSS: The Red Cross will gladly loan you the money for the operation for your little girl, Mrs. Thomas. We will notify your husband immediately that we are taking care of you until your allotments come through, so he won't worry.

(Scene changes to a Red Cross club near the front.)

SOLDIER: I had two doughnuts and a cup of coffee, miss, how much do I owe you?

RED CROSS: That's free to you soldier, given gladly by the people in the United States. (Scene shifts to a hospital.)

RED CROSS: Here's a smoke, sailor. Anything I can do for you?

SAILOR: I haven't been able to write since my hands got burned.

RED CROSS: If you want, I'll write a letter now. I have the paper right here. Ready? (Scene shifts back to studio.)

RED CROSS: In time of peace the Red Cross is important. In time of war, its duties are magnified many times.

NARRATOR: The Red Cross is on the job. Here is unfinished business. The Red Cross is having it's annual drive for funds to continue its vital work. The drive opens the 1st of March. Citizen CIO, what are you going to do?

WORKER: We are going to support this drive, too. We will contribute to it, and where we can we will help collect contributions.

• AT YOUR SERVICE •

Pamphlets

A Guide to Labor Legislation carries the main points of federal laws which affect labor. This Handbook is a must for Local Union Officers and Stewards. Order Bulletin No. 66-A from the Division of Labor Standards, U. S. Dept. of Labor, Washington, D. C., free. If their supply is exhausted, you can get it for 25c a copy from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C.

"5,000,000 Jobs in World Trade: The Promise of Bretton Woods." (The text of this pamphlet was printed in the Feb. 15 NEWS.) 100 for $4.00; 500 for $17.50.

"Re-Employment"—Philip Murray's Plan for Peace and Plenty: 15c a copy; 100 for $12.

"CIO"—an explanation of the CIO, prepared for the delegates to the World Labor Conference: $10.00 per 100. Order direct from the CIO, 718 Jackson Pl., NW, Washington 6, D. C.

Records

MESSAGES from the joint chairmen of the World Labor Conference in London are available on records for $5 a set. CIO Vice-President R. J. Thomas, Vasili Kuznetzov, Soviet trade union leader, and George Isaacs speak on the achievements of the World Trade Union Conference.

Order from Len De Caux, Publicity Director CIO, 718 Jackson Pl., NW, Washington 6, D. C. State whether you want them for use on phonograph or for a radio re-broadcast. The records last 15 minutes.

New musical records of special interest to trade unionists include:

Songs for Victory: Sally Don't You Grieve, A Dollar Bill, Hold On, Hold the Fort, We Shall Not Be Moved, Jim Crow and UAW-CIO, sung by some of America's finest folk singers, such as Woody Guthrie and Josh White. $3.15 for the set of three records.

Citizen CIO: Including I'm Gonna Write My Name Down, We've Got a Plan, Freedom Road, and other songs in the spirit and swing of our CIO movement today. $2.98 for three records.

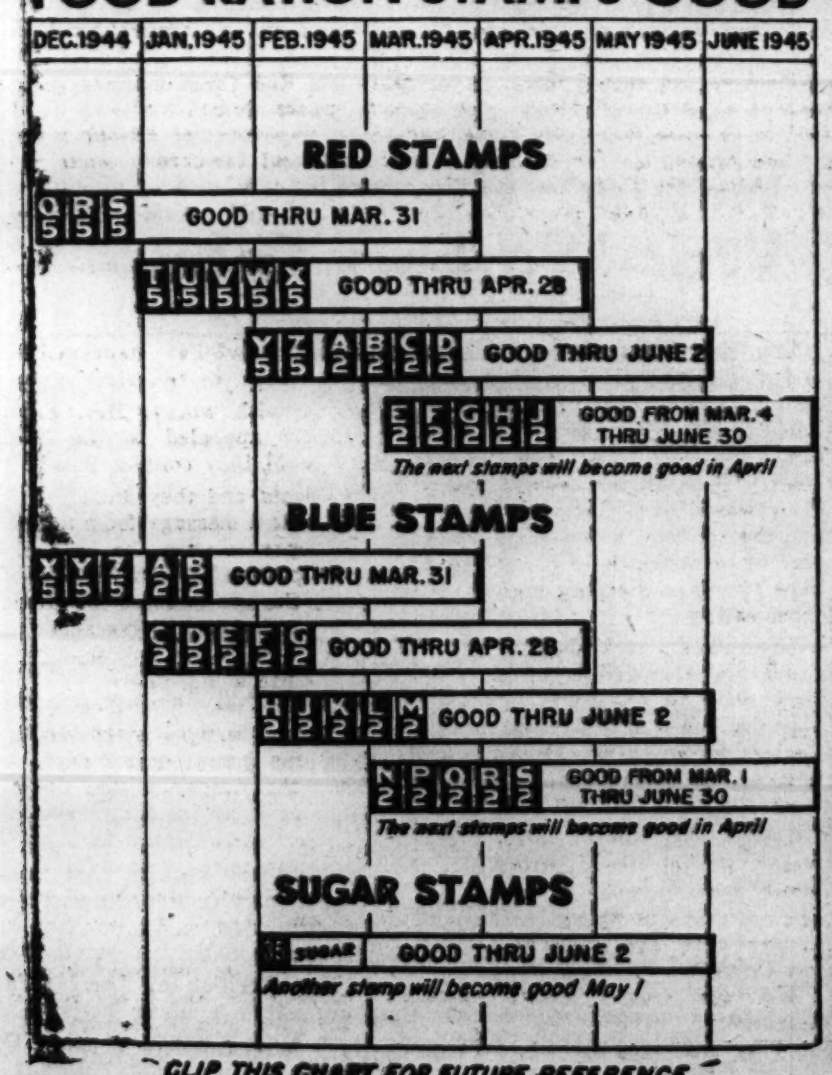
Members of locals will enjoy hearing these tunes played before meeting time. Tell your community music store that they can get these from Stinson's, the advertiser on this page—or you can order them direct.

Do You Know That: Woody Guthrie, great folk singer, exclusive on Asch records, came from the Dust Bowl and is now a merchant seaman.

And Do You Know That: Asch records feature Mountain Songs, Cowboy Songs, Square Dances (with mandolins, guitars, banjos), Jazz, Boogie Woogie, Blues, popular jazz favorites.

Write for Catalogue to
STINSON TRADING CORP.
27 Union Sq. W., New York 3, N. Y.

FOOD RATION STAMPS GOOD


DEC. 1944
JAN. 1945
FEB. 1945
MAR. 1945
APR. 1945
MAY 1945
JUNE 1945
RED STAMPS
Q5 R5 S5 GOOD THRU MAR. 31
T5 U5 V5 W5 X5 GOOD THRU APR. 28
Y5 Z5 A2 B2 C2 D2 GOOD THRU JUNE 2
E2 F2 G2 H2 J2 GOOD FROM MAR. 4 THRU JUNE 30
The next stamps will become good in April
BLUE STAMPS
X5 Y5 Z5 A2 B2 GOOD THRU MAR. 31
C2 D2 E2 F2 G2 GOOD THRU APR. 28
H2 J2 K2 L2 M2 GOOD THRU JUNE 2
N2 P2 Q2 R2 S2 GOOD FROM MAR. 1 THRU JUNE 30
The next stamps will become good in April
SUGAR STAMPS
SUGAR GOOD THRU JUNE 2
Another stamp will become good May 1

CLIP THIS CHART FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

$800 Worth Of Clothing Sent For Yugoslav Aid

By Leona W. Stockton, Secretary, Local 100

Orlando, Florida—In response to an appeal from our General President, Donald Henderson, in behalf of the hundreds of thousands of orphaned Yugoslav refugees, Local 100 set up a committee for the purpose of collecting clothing, and called upon the leaders of the Negro Community to assist them in this worthy task.

The cooperation was excellent, and under the leadership of Mrs. Martha James and Mrs. Idella McMillan, church, school, business and professional groups, as well as numerous individuals, pitched in. As a result, eight boxes of clothing valued at 800 dollars were shipped to the American Committee for Yugoslav Relief on March 3.

The committee representing Local 100 in this campaign was composed of Coleman Bady, Taylor Sneed, Sam Carter and Thomas Evans, who gave generously of their time picking up the clothing in a truck lent by Brother Bady and packing it in boxes for shipment. Many other members of the Union also participated.

Local Listing

In accordance with Article 12, Section 8 of our International Constitution, the numbers and location of the following Locals are presented:

Local No.	Location
647	Long Island City, N. Y.
356	Lockport, N. Y.
95	Trenton, N. J.
57	Richmond, Va.
85	Elberta, Mich.
40	Osseo, Wis.
35	Mercedes, Texas
38	Muncie, Indiana
75	Houston, Texas

ON THE WORLD FRONT

CIO Proclaims United Nations Month

By Philip Murray, President, CIO

I AM calling upon all international and national unions and industrial union councils to make the month of April United Nations Month within the CIO, and urge that all CIO organizations, large and small including our local industrial union councils, and all CIO members devote that month to study and discussion of the basic principles of our foreign policy.

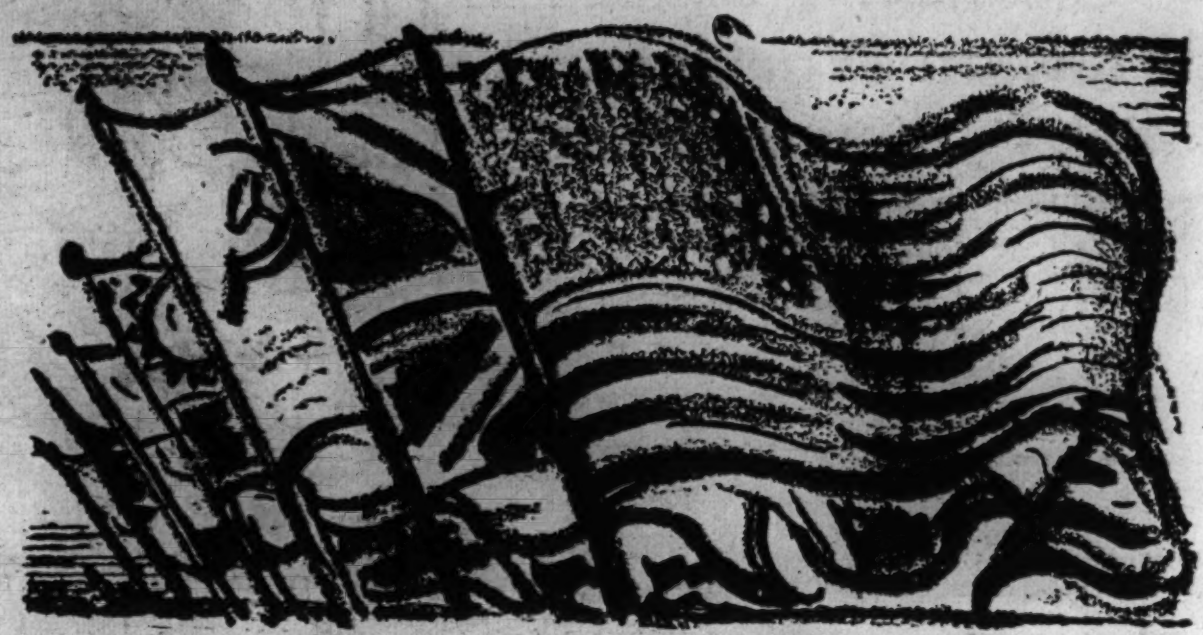
American labor, because it has always been in the forefront in the fight against Fascism, has a great responsibility to see that the fight stays won, to educate itself on the basic principles of our foreign policy and then to join with other patriotic citizens to impose upon Congress the will of the American people.

As the armies of the United Nations move swiftly forward to crush Fascism, the governments of those nations are making plans to establish a world organization to maintain a just and lasting peace. At the same time world labor unity is being given concrete form by the formation of a new international labor organization.

The month of April will see the representatives of the United Nations meeting at San Francisco to hammer out the final form of a world security organization. After that it will be up to Congress, particularly the Senate, to ratify the San Francisco decisions, and it will be up to the American people to insist that they do so.

In the meantime Congress will be deciding whether this country will take the first step toward international cooperation in economic matters by its vote on ratification of the Bretton Woods monetary agreements, and again the American people must insist that the agreements be ratified.

For these reasons, all CIO members must be fully informed as to the issues at stake and alert to developments in Congress. All departments of the CIO as well as your international union stand ready to assist you with material for meetings and suggestions for speakers. I urge your local unions to get together with other groups in the community which are already active or willing to act jointly to support the fight for world unity.



New Era For Common Man Opened At Inter-American Conference

By Mary Heaton Vorse

Mexico City (FP)—U. S. Labor delegates to the Inter-American Conference are fully in accord with plans being made by the 20 nations represented here to insure postwar prosperity for Latin America.

This is the first wartime international conference among governments where labor has been granted representation and is considered a guarantee that labor will also be included in the American delegation to the United Nations parley at San Francisco April 25.

The unique role they have played here was described to me in a joint interview with the three labor delegates, AFL Secy.-Treas. George Meany, David J. McDonald, secretary-treasurer of United Steelworkers and a member of the CIO Latin American Affairs Committee, and Exec. Sec. Julius G. Luhrsen of the Railway Labor Executives Assn.

ECONOMIC CHARTER

Instead of labor's being treated as a stepchild, the three unionists sat down with government, business and agriculture to formulate an economic charter for the western world which by many is considered the most far-reaching document to come out of this conference, second only to the Chapultepec agreement to protect the peace.

Other members of the committee which framed the charter included William Clayton of the State Dept., Katherine Lenroot of the Labor Dept., official government delegates, and Pres. Eric Johnston of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce and Pres. James G. Patton of the Natl. Farmers Union who, like the labor men, was included in the U. S. delegation in an advisory capacity.

Cardinal objective of the economic charter proposed by the U. S. is economic development of the Americas, through development of natural resources, increased industrialization, modernization of agriculture, development of power facilities and public works, encouragement of private investment of capital and improvement of labor standards and working conditions, including collective bargaining, all leading to a rising level of living and increased consumption.

"This is the first time," Meany said, "that American labor has had a direct part in formulating its policies in any inter-American conference. Labor and social provisions have hitherto been voiced without labor. So this conference sets a new precedent and opens a new era for labor in this hemisphere."

LABOR'S RIGHTS

"The economic charter is revolutionary in Latin American affairs," McDonald said, "since it affirms labor's right to collective bargaining. It is important to every worker in the U. S. as well as all workers in Latin America since the economic charter incorporates not only collective bargaining and labor standards and safeguards but states that only through rising standards of living can world peace be maintained."

By Donald Henderson, General President, FTA

"THE burning desire of the peoples of the peace-loving nations is the complete destruction of every phase of Fascism and to make sure that there shall be peace for generations to come.

"These objectives can be accomplished only theough a firm unity among the United Nations for the duration of the war and during the postwar. A vigorous labor movement in every country, fortified by international labor unity, is the best guarantee that the United Nations will win a peoples peace.

"We pledge our complete and forthright support to our President and Commander-in-Chief in his determined stand to preserve unity among the United Nations in our forward march to the absolute destruction of Hitlerite Germany and Japanese militarists.

"The Dumbarton Oaks conference has laid the basis for the formation of an international organization to secure an enduring peace. We will bend every effort to expose and defeat the anti-labor, fascist-minded isolationists in the United States who have already launched their campaign to stymie effective peace organization."

I think it highly appropriate at this time to repeat the above statement which was passed as a resolution at FTA's Fifth National Convention last December. For this month the issue of a strong and lasting Peoples Peace will be placed at the top of the Order of Business for the whole world.

The CIO is paying tribute to the United Nations Conference which will be held in San Francisco on April 25 by proclaiming April as United Nations Month.

Labor's awareness of the issues at stake at the San Francisco conference will affect Congressional ratification of the United Nations decisions. This should be our main political activity for the coming month!

Every FTA local union should undertake the activities suggested by CIO President Philip Murray (see column 1 on this page) and work to make a peoples peace a reality.

Labor Asks Voice In Peace Plans

London, England (FP) — The World Trade Union Conference is asking for a voice in the United Nations meeting in San Francisco in an advisory role, Pres. Sidney Hillman of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers (CIO) told reporters in Paris March 1, where he is participating in sessions of the labor conference's administrative committee.

World labor's bid for representation at San Francisco was placed before their governments by the leaders of the World Trade Union Conference in London the week before, but "no decisions have yet been received" on the request, according to the London Daily Herald, official organ of the British Labor Party.

The Herald said it is certain that the individual delegations of Great Britain, U. S., Soviet Union, France and China at San Francisco will include representatives of the unions of their respective countries. The U. S. will probably invite the AFL along as well as the CIO, the Herald said, predicting that this move will force a showdown on what it called the AFL leaders' "isolationism."

Unfinished Business...

the men who lie in the rows of Army hospitals . . .
know they have a job ahead
a job of finding the way back to health . . . to strength . . . to security . . .
and all Americans, all CIO men and women, know there is a job ahead for them, too
a job of helping to bring all of our fighting men back as quickly as possible
a job of backing the Red Cross in its work of backing them . . .
that is why CIO citizens are working, fighting, giving . . . to help clean up . . .

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The Red Cross helps our men overseas with recreation, blood plasma, surgical dressings, and food for men in enemy prison camps.

Give Now to the RED CROSS

National CIO War Relief Committee

Red Cross—A Friend In Need: A True Story Of A Prisoner Of War

THIS is a story of what the Red Cross does for you, Citizen CIO — for you and your neighbor and the man at the next bench.

There are 1½ million CIO members in the armed forces — for them the Red Cross operates rest clubs and clubmobiles, collects thousands of pints of blood each month, packs prisoner-of-war food packages and medicine kits, handles communications from home, and—most important of all—does the thousand important personal things like arranging for emergency furloughs and temporary loans.

For 4½ million CIO members at home, the Red Cross supplies nurses for over-crowded war-worker areas, gives classes in industrial safety, accident prevention, and first aid, and provides relief in natural and industrial disasters.

This is just one story of services performed by the Red Cross for a CIO family—there are thousands more like it:

SAM Burton, 19, was waiting . . . A prisoner of war in a Nazi concentration camp for six long months, he was waiting for the day when the war would be over, waiting for the first sight again of his family back home in Chicago, waiting for freedom. And he was waiting for letters from home that would answer the questions that weigh on the minds of men away from home everywhere:

"What are the folks doing? How is Dad making out at the plant? Is Mother all right?"

But Sam had no answer—only the questions . . . and the worry that went with them.

He would write home—long letters asking:

"What's the matter? Why doesn't somebody write? Is everything all right? Is Mother well?"

But there were no answers.

And as the weeks and months passed without any word while other prisoners of war in the same camp got mail from home almost weekly, Sam Burton decided something was wrong. Out of the worry and the waiting, he built up a picture of catastrophe—a picture that kept him from sleeping nights . . . from eating.

Meanwhile, back home, Sam's family wrote daily—casually at first, relaying small bits of gossip—young Joe's first football game, Susan's grown-up hair style—Dad's new job as secretary of his CIO local.

Later, when they realized Sam wasn't getting their letters, they wrote more urgently . . . assuring him nothing was wrong . . . hoping always that one message would get through.

But still Sam's letters came home with:

"Why don't you write? I know something awful's happened — don't be afraid to tell me."

Frantic with worry, Mrs. Burton finally appealed to the Red Cross—could they contact Sam?

They could and they did.

And while a message from a Red Cross representative can never take the place of mail from home, to Sam Burton haunted by fear and worry, it meant deliverance . . . from the terrible anxiety that had made his life a nightmare.

Last year over 2 million such emergency messages were delivered by the home service department of the American Red Cross—messages that meant renewed hope, relief from worry to 2 million servicemen . . . to 2 million families at home. And this is only one of the services the Red Cross performs.

This is why we need your dollars . . . to keep the Red Cross on the job—for your boys in the service—for your neighbors here at home.

UNION MEN IN UNIFORM

Wounded GI's Work on War Jobs Under 100% Union-Approved Plan

Van Nuys, Calif. (FP)—The Birmingham Program, developed here by medical, psychological and vocational experts with the approval and endorsement of both AFL and CIO unions, is making history in re habilitation of wounded GIs.

Here in sunny San Fernando valley, wounded vets are reconditioned for active duty, limited service or return to civilian life by methods which a few years ago were unknown. They call on the patient for utmost practical activity in winning back the use of his faculties and body functions. Under direction of Maj. Daniel R. Mishell, a surgeon, the wounded heroes go to work on war jobs while they are still confined to wheel chairs, locked in casts or wearing bandages.

Northrop Aircraft Corp., which manufactures the potent Black Widow night fighters, has equipped a shop at Birmingham. So has Lockheed, where members of the Intl. Assn. of Machinists (AFL) build the swift Lightning P-38. Only patients who volunteer work in these shops and only when they have medical okay. They are permitted to put in three hours daily and get union scale rates of 85c hourly. The two aircraft unions, United Auto Workers (CIO) and the IAM, approve 100%.

HIGH PRODUCTION

There's no playing at work: war production gets more than 7,000 manhours each month from the Birmingham men. That's as much as a fulltime crew of 300 or 350 whole workers would do.

The plan has been underway six months and only one patient has dropped out of the work on his own decision. Even bed patients often volunteer. Badly injured men in wards working in awkward positions do their jobs successfully. Foremen of the Northrop and Lockheed shops work in close cooperation with medical officers. Patients are put to work on machines and operations that will give them the kind of exercise their cure or improvement calls for.

The Intl. Typographical Union (AFL) has already set aside funds for a printing plant to be installed at Birmingham.

GOOD MEDICINE

These shops, manned by men who want work, not pity, activity not bedridden boredom, are becoming industrial laboratories for fitting the disabled into industry. They are also strong and good medicine for the convalescents.

More and more plant owners are reported to be recognizing the value of installations designed to use the skills and energy of handicapped workers.

The Birmingham shops have made a great record. There is no absenteeism. No racial segregation. The bullets and bombs struck white and black, Mexican and native American, Christian and Jew without discrimination. They are cared for together and they work together in the shops making parts that will help lick the peddlers of political racism under the swastika and the rising sun emblems.

"I AIN'T DOIN' ANY UNNECESSARY TRAVELIN' FOR THE DURATION."

MAIL CALL

"AS an aerial gunner, I've received my 'baptism' and have taken part in raining destruction on the Nazis," writes Sgt. Jack Fox, International Representative on leave, from England. "While I was sort of uneasy, I finally decided that Hitler had more to worry about than I did—he sure did, too. We're paying off some old debts—cash on the barrelhead. I don't think the fascists like it either.

"The Russian offensive has every GI jubilant. They're setting a wicked pace. It's a blitz in reverse. You should hear the German propaganda stations. They're hysterical now.

"While on a pass a few days ago, I met Mr. R. Seabrook, a representative of the Allied Trades Union (Food and Canneries) of England. He explained a lot about the British trade unions to me, and I was surprised to learn how much he knew about our set up.

"I've been hearing quite regularly from Locals 194, 17, 18 and 110, as well as occasional letters from other locals."

"I SURE hope you had a swell turnout for the Convention," writes Cpl. John J. Wachendorfer, Local 186 member, from France. "This is the first chance I've gotten to write, and I'm glad to know that the members in the armed forces are not forgotten.

"I'm glad to know the Union is getting stronger. More power to the organization, because we will have to stick together after this war is over, more than ever.

"It was pretty 'hot' when I first landed here. The invasion had just started, and we've been on the move ever since.

"My best regards to the members of FTA."

THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN LABOR

The National Labor Union

By DR. PHILIP FONER

(This is the fifth of a bi-weekly series on American labor history written for Federated Press and FTA NEWS by Dr. Foner, instructor at the Jefferson School of Social Science in New York and author of a number of works on American history.)

DESPITE its many shortcomings and brief existence (it lasted from 1886 to 1872) the Natl. Labor Union represented a very important stage in the development of the American labor movement.

First of all, it crystallized the most important issues for the workers in this period and through its educational activities helped to rally labor throughout the nation around these issues. It was among the first organizations anywhere in the world to raise the issue of equal pay for equal work and to place women in positions of leadership. It was the first American body to have a strong lobby in Washington and one of the earliest to send delegates to attend an international labor convention, in this case conducted by the Intl. Workingmen's Assn.

Labor Parties

It urged the creation of a Dept. of Labor, directed attention to the need for the shorter workday and cooperated to establish the 8-hour system in the federal and state governments. It assisted in the launching of a number of state labor parties and of the first Natl. Labor party in the history of the American labor movement and nominated, in 1872, the first candidate of an American labor party for President of the U. S.

Equal Rights

The Natl. Labor Union placed great stress upon labor solidarity. "The interests of the labor cause," read the declaration of principles adopted at the opening convention in Baltimore, "demand that all workingmen be included within its ranks, without regard to race or nationality . . . There is but one dividing line, that which separates mankind into two great classes, the class that labors and the class that lives by others' labors."

That the Natl. Labor Union meant working women as well as men is evidenced by another section from the same declaration of principles which stated: "We pledge our individual and undivided support to the sewing women and daughters of toil in this land, and would solicit their hearty cooperation, knowing as we do that no class of industry is so much in need of having their condition ameliorated as the factory operatives, sewing women, etc., of this country."

Organize Women

In 1868 the Natl. Labor Union went on record in favor of the widest organization of working women, urged them to "join our labor union, or form protective unions of their own, and use any other honorable means to persuade or force employers to do justice to women by paying them equal pay for equal work."

It also called upon Congress and all legislatures to pass laws "securing salaries for equal work to all women employed in the various departments of government."

Women Leaders

Finally, to guarantee that these resolutions would be put into effect, the Natl. Labor Union authorized its president, the great leader of the Intl. Molders Union, William H. Sylvis, to appoint an assistant woman secretary to promote the organization of working women. The woman appointed, Kate Mullaney, director of the Troy Collar Workingwomen's Assn., was an able organizer and entered upon her task with enthusiasm. In 1870 the Natl. Labor Union elected Mrs. E. O. G. Willard of the Chicago Working Women's Union as its second vice president.

It has usually been the case in the American labor movement that an organization which adopts a progressive attitude toward working women will adopt a similar outlook toward the organization of Negro workers. As we shall see in our next article, the Natl. Labor Union is an excellent illustration of this theme.

JOHNNIE JONES
by DON RICO
--FROM THE F.B.I.! GOSH! I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING! HONEST!
TAKE IT EASY, JONES! MR. FARREL HAS SOMETHING TO SAY TO YOU-- SO I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE.
I'LL COME TO THE POINT, JOHNNIE! A COUPLE OF HOODS TRIED TO TRAP YOU INTO GIVING THEM INFO ON YOUR SHIP...RIGHT?
RIGHT! BUT HOW--
IN A CRUDE, BUT EFFECTIVE MANNER, YOU DEALT WITH THE SITUATION QUITE THOROUGHLY--LEAVING ONE MR. JUMBO WITH A CRACKED SKULL! YOU WERE PRETTY SMART NOT TO FALL FOR THAT GANG'S TRICKS!
THANKS-- BUT HOW---
FEDERATED PRESS
WE'VE HAD OUR EYE ON JUMBO FOR A LONG TIME--WE KNOW THEY'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET SEAMEN TO SQEAL ON THEIR SHIPS' MOVEMENTS, BUT WE DON'T KNOW TO WHOM THEY SELL THEIR INFORMATION!
THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN! JOHNNIE, YOU'VE GOT A FACE THAT FOOLS PEOPLE---YOU LOOK SLAPPY--BUT YOU'RE SHARP AS A TACK! HOW'D YOU LIKE TO WORK FOR US AND HELP BREAK UP THAT GANG?
GOSH! AND HOW!
EVERYTHING'S SET WITH YOUR UNION AND THE SHIP! BUT IT'S A TOUGH JOB--- AND DANGEROUS! STILL WANT IT?
JUST TELL ME WHAT I HAVE TO DO!
BUT JUMBO IS NOT ASLEEP!
JUMBO--I'VE FOUND OUT THE SHIP JONES IS ON!
AHA! NOW I'LL FIX THAT LITTLE SQUIRT!